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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2007 and 2008.

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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2007 and 2008

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2007 and 2008. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms set out in Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963, in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

The Institute was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth".

During this reporting period, research was carried out under the programme designed for the period 2005-2009, which focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and equity. Research was carried out on the flagship project, Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes, as well as 15 other projects under 5 programme areas: Social policy and development; Gender and development; Markets, business and regulation; Civil society and social movements; and Identities, conflict and cohesion.

The Institute issued 55 publications in 2007-2008, as well as two CD-ROM libraries of publications issued in the period from the mid-1980s through 2007. The Institute's website showed positive growth trends in the number of visitors and full-text documents downloaded. In 2007-2008, the Institute tracked nearly 80 references to its work in the official documents and publications of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies.

The Institute's core funding came from the voluntary contributions of seven different Governments in 2007 and 2008. The Institute also received project-specific contributions from Governments, international agencies and foundations.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous research institute within the framework of the United Nations. It was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth" (see Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963).

2. In the 45 years since the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development was established, its work has been guided by the broad understanding of social development as that aimed at enhancing people's material well-being, social cohesion, participation and social justice. The Institute promotes a multidisciplinary approach to social development research, and places particular emphasis on the social impacts of development policies and the multiple factors and contexts that shape decision-making processes. The Institute undertakes applied research, publishes the findings and sponsors events with a view to disseminating results and encouraging dialogue among policymakers within the United Nations system and beyond, donors, scholars and civil society organizations.

3. Research is carried out in collaboration with networks involving researchers in universities and non-governmental research organizations around the world. The majority of these researchers are either from or based in developing countries or both. In 2007-2008, over 200 researchers participated in Institute programmes or contributed to its publications.

4. As of 31 October 2008, a total of 16 regular staff were employed in Geneva: 10 staff members in the Professional and higher categories, including the Director and Deputy Director, and 6 support staff members. The Institute hosted seven research fellows in 2007-2008, two under a fellowship grant provided to the Institute by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. During the reporting period, over 40 young scholars contributed to the work of the Institute as research analysts and interns. They came from Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

5. During this reporting period, the Institute undertook research for its programme of work for 2005-2009, which focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and equity. UNRISD carried out research for the flagship project, Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes, as well as 15 other projects under 5 programme areas: Social policy and development; Markets, business and regulation; Civil society and social movements; Identities, conflict and cohesion; and Gender and development. Outreach initiatives are discussed in section III. Publications issued by the Institute itself or in conjunction with commercial or academic presses during 2007-2008 are listed in endnotes 11-16.

II. Programme of research

6. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development designs its research agenda to ensure its alignment with contemporary development trends and

concerns, so that areas of enquiry contribute to a coherent research strategy, and attention is given to issues that are not being addressed adequately or sufficiently by other research networks associated with the United Nations system. In order to implement its research projects, the Institute must mobilize its own funding, as it receives no money from the regular budget of the United Nations and is funded exclusively by voluntary contributions from Member States, research foundations, United Nations organizations and other institutions.

7. Within its broad remit to conduct research on social development, under the 2005-2009 research agenda, the Institute is examining the relationships among the social, economic and political dimensions of development, and the ways in which improvements in social institutions, social relations and social welfare affect not only human well-being, but also economic development and democracy.

A. Social policy and development

8. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development defines social policy as comprising public policies and institutions that aim to protect citizens from social contingencies and poverty and, ultimately, to enable them to strive to achieve their own life goals. The research projects carried out under this programme explore the conditions under which social policy can be a powerful instrument for democratic progress and economic development while at the same time pursuing intrinsic goals such as social protection and justice.

9. Research was carried out on seven projects in 2007-2008.

Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes

10. Most of the research for this flagship project, which investigates the causes, dimensions and dynamics of poverty, was undertaken in 2007-2008. It has adopted a "policy regime" approach, using an examination of the interconnections of institutions and policies in the domains of economy, social policy and politics to explain variations in poverty outcomes across countries. It also reviews contemporary approaches to poverty reduction, including the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategy papers, and identifies institutional, policy and political issues that are not being addressed in current poverty reduction strategies.

11. The project encompasses two sets of activities. Those in the first set entail eight case studies involving in-depth research conducted by research teams (Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa and Taiwan Province of China) under six broad themes: development strategies, growth and structural change; wealth and income inequality; welfare regime and social protection; welfare regime and basic services; organized interests, development strategies and poverty; and developmental State capacity and institutional reform. Nine overview papers (on China, Finland, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and the former Soviet Union) have also been prepared, one published as a *Programme Paper*.[1]

12. The insights derived from the research are highlighted below.

13. Current poverty reduction strategies in many low-income countries are constrained by an overly restrictive macroeconomic framework and do not reflect

the growth strategies of countries that had managed to reduce poverty in relatively short periods. Fewer low-income countries are following the classical path of structural change in which industry, and manufacturing in particular, has played the leading role in providing mass employment and lifting the bulk of the population out of poverty. Because recent growth accelerations in many low-income countries are linked to the boom in commodity prices and the growth of the world economy, the projected economic slowdown is likely to reverse recent growth trends and impact adversely on poverty.

14. Countries that compressed the time period for eliminating absolute poverty followed a growth path that led to profound structural shifts in their economies. An overwhelming majority of the labour force moved from low-value/low-wage agriculture to high-value/high-earnings manufacturing and services, which became dominant in gross domestic product (GDP) and export shares. The growth strategy was inherently redistributive: the manufacturing sector started off by absorbing low-wage/low-skilled workers from agriculture and was subsequently upgraded to include activities that required higher skill levels.

15. For some emerging economies, the services sector, not manufacturing, has become the engine of growth, with mixed results depending on which end of the services spectrum drives development. In some cases, growth in the services sector is a consequence of the failure of both industrialization and agricultural development.

16. Growth paths that are driven by low-productivity activities in agriculture and services, or by mineral rents in which structural change is limited to the primary sector, have produced highly segmented labour markets. In these types of economies, the poor are often locked out of the dynamic growth sectors. Poverty may take the form of persistent unemployment or widespread underemployment.

17. The State has been a key driver in the pursuit of growth, structural change and poverty reduction in successful late-developing countries. The nature of interventions has depended on the political regime and the State's relations with key groups in the economy. A growth strategy constructed under democratic conditions may require both the creation of social pacts or agreements, whether formal or informal, in which labour agrees to hold down wages in exchange for commitments by business to reinvest profits and expand employment, and the provision by the State itself of social benefits. Such compacts work best when issues of social justice or redistribution are fully integrated into the growth strategy. State interventions for industrial transformation include investments in human capital and infrastructure, mobilization of resources and their allocation to the growth sectors, and ownership or regulation of key financial institutions.

18. States that are committed to fast growth and poverty reduction need to build bureaucracies that are rule-based, less beholden to patronage, knowledgeable about the economy, and staffed by well-paid and well-trained individuals recruited on the basis of merit. It is important to mobilize domestic resources for building such capacity, because this expands policy space, embeds the State in society, improves downward accountability to citizens, and reinforces influence over investors' behaviour. Until the 1980s era of structural adjustment policies, most developing countries followed State-directed strategies that tried to accelerate the growth process. What distinguishes successful from unsuccessful States is the ability to discipline allocations. In cases where firms enjoyed rents or subsidies associated

with industrial policies but resisted efforts by State agents to monitor and enforce targets, development efforts often had limited success.

19. Many "good governance" reforms, such as rule of law, property rights and control of corruption, are desirable. However, these reforms alone are not likely to sustain growth in low-income countries. Other types of governance capabilities overlooked by the good governance agenda, such as the efficiency of resource allocation, also affect growth rates.

20. Social policy was integral to the growth strategies of countries that achieved high levels of structural transformation and poverty reduction. It served protectionist, redistributive, legitimation and developmental functions. Universalist welfare programmes tended to achieve a greater reduction in poverty and offered better protection to low-income and vulnerable groups than those based on principles of targeting. Universalism was incremental (in terms of programmes, coverage and benefits) and did not always displace targeted programmes, which were often used to help disadvantaged groups gain access to universal services.

21. In some countries, social policy was not used as an instrument of redistribution, given the accent on employment and workers' contributions to insurance schemes. Where the growth strategy generated low levels of unemployment, the majority of the population had access to social protection and the poor were a minority. Democratization, combined with economic restructuring that has generated more unemployment and more part-time and informal work, seems to be pushing these countries along more universalist paths as Governments come under pressure to use the budget to provide the population with unemployment benefits, larger social safety nets and health insurance.

22. A two-tier social protection system is emerging or consolidating in most developing countries. Social insurance schemes for employees in the formal labour force coexist with social assistance schemes largely targeted to the poor or low-income groups. The character of the labour market and patterns of State-business-labour relations define the scope and redistribution of insurance schemes. Social insurance schemes in highly unequal societies and fragmented labour markets tend to be regressive. Owing to problems in extending social insurance in countries where the majority of the population is in agriculture and the informal economy, a variety of social assistance schemes, such as cash transfers, targeted to the poor, have been spawned. These schemes seem to reduce poverty but are not as well funded as social insurance schemes, and benefits are at basic levels of survival. There are limits (in terms of coverage and remuneration) to extending social insurance if the majority of the labour force is in the non-formal sector or is unemployed, and growth strategies are not shifting the bulk of this force to the productive sectors.

23. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development contributed expert advice to the MDG Gap Task Force (November 2007); and presented the preliminary research findings at workshops during the Civil Society Development Forum (Geneva, June 2007) and the twelfth General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (Geneva, June 2008).

24. The second set of activities under this project involves preparatory work for an Institute report on poverty, to be published in 2009.

Financing social policy

25. In 2007-2008, this project studied the financial options for developing countries that aim to implement social policies in order to move towards producing societies that are economically productive, democratically anchored and socially inclusive; the role of external actors, policy models and ideologies; and how vertical and horizontal inequalities are addressed through revenue and expenditure structures.

26. Related work elsewhere in the United Nations system has been both drawn upon and complemented by this Institute project, which brings together diverse approaches focusing, inter alia, on public finance, political economy of policy reform, financing of social security, policy and welfare regimes, and development economics.

27. Under phase one (2006-2008), 13 papers were commissioned on different sources of finance.[2] The research findings are highlighted below.

28. Research on taxation and aid considered the mixed implications of aid and other forms of external resource dependence (for example, commodity-based taxes) for developing countries' own capacities not only to finance and implement social policies, but also to diversify their resource bases. The evidence highlights the failure of recent tax reforms to increase and sustain revenues for social and other policy priorities, as well as the need to develop new analytical tools in order to uncover the (endogenous) relationship between tax, aid and expenditures.

29. The research on remittances highlights the inherent difficulties of integrating private flows of money into the financing social policy framework. Findings support the thesis that remittances cannot be a substitute for social policy: they can merely act as a complement.

30. Research on natural resource rents focused attention on the huge implications of mineral wealth for the design and delivery of social policies in developing countries. Preventing manifestations of the "resource curse" is context-dependent; at the same time, there are trade-offs as well as possible synergies between economic and social policy.

31. With respect to social insurance schemes such as public pensions and health-care coverage, a common challenge is reconciling the necessity for financial sustainability in these schemes with the imperatives of ensuring coverage and adequate levels of benefits.

32. Research on pension funds and development focused on the challenge of reconciling the trade-offs — and maximizing the benefits — in the context of their protective and productive functions. Case studies emphasized the role that these funds can play in national economic development, and highlighted the importance of balancing the technical challenges of designing pensions, and the political challenges involved in aligning diverse interests in support of pension reforms.

33. In June 2007, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development offered a two-day training session on financing social policy for the staff of the social development division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut and provided expert feedback on the report, entitled "Operationalizing social policy in the ESCWA region".

Mineral rents and social policy in developing countries

34. If the lack of sufficient and stable revenues is considered a major problem for social policies in developing countries, those countries that are richly endowed with natural resources, especially oil and gas, should be fortunate. Yet, many resource-abundant countries have not been able to use their resources to generate a process of sustained economic growth, let alone social development involving equitable distribution of the fruits of this natural wealth and overall improvement in the welfare of all citizens.

35. This sub-project, which began in 2008, considers the following questions: Why do some mineral-rich countries manage to channel their resources into the financing of sustainable economic and social policies, while others do not? What are the factors that impede resource-rich countries in the South from investing more of their wealth in social development? Can boosting mineral rents open fiscal space for transformative social policies, while at the same time promoting democracy, social inclusion and economic development? To begin addressing these questions, the Institute commissioned four thematic papers and four country overview papers.

Pension funds and economic development

36. This sub-project, initiated in late 2007, examines the economic and social implications of social funds set aside for protective purposes. Although such funds are often aimed at ensuring social security, they can also be used for redistributive and productive purposes. In a number of developing countries, pension funds (and, to a lesser extent, health and unemployment insurance funds) have been an important source of financing for investment.

37. The research is focused on studying whether social funds in general, and pension funds specifically, are useful instruments with regard to combining social and economic development goals, and is examining the challenges of managing such funds in contexts of weak administrative capacity and macroeconomic instability. Other key areas of enquiry include how pension schemes tackle the problems of independent and informal sector workers; how decentralized private funds or mixed models compare with public funds; the allocation of pension fund investments in national and international economies, and its effects on rates of return, macroeconomic stability, security of funds and national development; the influence of donors and other external actors with regard to pension reform in developing countries; and the impact of different kinds of pension systems on social cohesion, equity and redistribution. The output of the research will be an edited volume.

Social policy and migration in developing countries

38. This project, initiated in 2007, studies the social dimensions of migration in origin and destination developing countries. Studies of the developmental impacts of outmigration on developing countries usually focus on financial and human resource flows, particularly remittances and skilled labour migration (brain drain). The Institute's research, which complements work undertaken by other bodies of the United Nations system, establishes the links between migration, social development and social policy. The project draws on the literature of the migration-development nexus, but goes beyond it in terms of establishing a broader concept of development and a focus on South-South migration.

39. The project is innovative conceptually, empirically and in terms of policy relevance. On the conceptual and theoretical level, it critically reviews existing approaches to the causes and consequences of migration in order to assess their applicability for explaining the relationship between migration, social development and social policy, especially for patterns of South-South migration. On the empirical level, it studies the migration-social development nexus for different sets of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, emphasizing the regional context of migration. Finally, on the political level, it explores possible challenges and responses for social policy regimes in developing countries that are experiencing both in- and outflows of migrants. In 2007-2008, research was under way on six thematic and three regional overview papers.[3] A report was published on the project workshop jointly organized with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Institute for Futures Studies in November 2007.[4]

Social policies in small States

40. This project was inaugurated in 2007. It investigates why some small economies have succeeded in formulating social policies through which to overcome chronic vulnerabilities and improve their social indicators, while others, with similar or different policies, have been less successful. The research considers different hypotheses that explain variations in performance, including those centred on democratic governance, the nature of the welfare State, social cohesion/capital, and jurisdictional resourcefulness. By bringing together the social, environmental, political and economic spheres, this research of the Institute complements the work of other United Nations bodies concerned with the issues facing small (island) developing States. Fifteen papers were commissioned in 2007-2008, including thematic studies and country-level research and data collection on development strategy, social situation and social policy formulation.

Social policy index

41. The project objective has been to develop a social policy index (SPI) based on a framework that takes into account the multiple roles of social policy in terms of redistribution, production, reproduction and protection. The social policy index is an input index that quantifies countries' priorities and ranks them according to their social policy orientation and effort. Data on social spending and taxation for over 130 countries have been collected and analysed.

B. Markets, business and regulation

42. Business-State relations and the role of the market in social development have undergone profound changes in recent decades as a result of policy and institutional changes related to economic liberalization, privatization, the expansion of global value chains, and new approaches to regulation and governance. These developments have profound implications for social well-being, equity and democratic governance and are the focus of research under this programme.

43. In 2007-2008, research was carried out on three projects (one jointly with the programme civil society and social movements) of which one was completed.

Organized business and social policy

44. In recent decades, the private sector, in particular transnational corporations, has been urged to play a more proactive role in social development. The international development community, including the United Nations, generally emphasizes voluntary initiatives related to corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships. Far less attention has been paid to the question how organized business interests support or undermine aspects of public policy that are key for inclusive development.

45. This research has studied how changes in State-business-society relations are affecting development strategies, and social and labour-market policies. It has evaluated whether new forms of partnership advance social development outcomes and improve the effectiveness of governance institutions, as well as the institutional, political and economic conditions that can encourage organized business interests to support social, labour-market and industrial policies that favour inclusive and rights-based development.

46. The project took the form of a call for papers and a conference (based on papers by 26 researchers from South and North) on business, social policy and corporate political influence in developing countries, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 12 and 13 November 2007.[5] The conference brought key findings and debates from academia to the attention of United Nations organizations, Governments, business and civil society organizations, and the international development research community; and drew on insights from different disciplines to enable a better understanding of the role of business in development and the move towards more integrated, coherent policy approaches.

47. The findings and recommendations that emerged from the research are presented below.

48. Efforts to engage business in inclusive development, corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships require a framework that can be provided by national planning processes, social policy or institutions of social dialogue involving the State, business and civil society. It is important to engage the corporate sector and business associations in a dialogue on national development strategies and poverty reduction.

49. However, corporate social responsibility is not a substitute for public policy. Public regulatory frameworks are essential for mitigating the limitations of corporate social responsibility. Strengthening these frameworks requires not only establishing new policies and laws, but also reinforcing State administrative capacity. Governments and other stakeholders involved in the promotion of public-private partnerships need to be more aware of existing asymmetries in power relations in public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder corporate social responsibility initiatives, as well as various tensions that can undermine their stated objectives and contribution to inclusive development. Mechanisms to enhance accountability and the participation of weaker stakeholders or intended beneficiaries need to be strengthened.

50. There are aspects of social policy that are conducive to both the short- and long-term interests of certain sectors of business, given the important linkages between social policy and human capital formation, a healthy workforce, social cohesion and stability.

51. International organizations, including international financial institutions and the United Nations, need to interrogate the model of development they promote through their support of foreign direct investment and private regulation, which may reinforce the structural and instrumental power of big business.

52. In mid-2008, Palgrave Macmillan accepted two edited volumes (including selected conference papers) for publication.

Negotiating alternative trade regimes in Latin America

53. This project, carried out in 2007-2008 in collaboration with three Geneva-based academic and research institutes, has studied the political economy of trade regimes and the role of non-State actors in shaping trade and regional integration policies in contexts where social democratic or leftist parties are in power. The research also examines the implications of changes in trade and regional integration policy for two key principles of good governance, namely, policy space and policy coherence. A report that summarized regional trends and debates and synthesizes the case studies of countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Nicaragua) was presented at the twelfth General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (Geneva, June 2008). Preliminary results were also discussed in August 2007 at an event held in Managua, co-hosted with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development.

Social responses to inequalities and policy changes

54. This project, carried out in 2007-2008 jointly with the Civil society and social movements programme, is part of a larger enquiry into inequality which involves eight Europe-based research institutions. It examines contemporary forms of advocacy and activism in France, Italy and the United Kingdom centred around debt relief, aid policy, international taxation, trade justice and corporate accountability. The research has sought to understand the potential and limits of such activism in terms of influencing public policy and bringing about policy reforms conducive to more equitable North-South relations and global justice. A synthesis report summarizing the findings from 14 thematic and country-level studies was presented at a dissemination meeting in Geneva (June 2008), attended by project consortium partners, United Nations officials and representatives of Geneva-based civil society and academic institutions.

Social policy, regulation and private sector involvement in water supply

55. This research, which concluded in 2007, investigated how private sector involvement in water supply affects the incidence of poverty based on access, equity and affordability, and the nature and results of current regulatory mechanisms and public policies in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, France, Hungary, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. The research documented the effects of private sector participation in these countries, revealing that private sector participation has not necessarily achieved the desired results in terms of improving affordability and access to water and sanitation services. In terms of policy implications, the research found that it is difficult to reconcile equitable social development, public health, improved access and affordable prices with the profit motive of the private sector. Reform of the water sector, therefore, should also include social policies relating to water supply (encompassing, for example, increasing block tariffs, fixing lifeline

consumption, cross-subsidies and a ban on disconnection). The summary of the research findings was published as an Institute *Programme Paper*, and Palgrave Macmillan published an edited volume in February 2008.[6]

C. Civil society and social movements

56. Under this programme, the Institute has explored the complexities and potential for promoting change inherent in global movements concerned with contemporary patterns of development and globalization.

57. Two projects were concluded in 2007-2008 (United Nations summits and civil society engagement; and Global civil society movements: dynamics in international campaigns and national implementation) and research results were published and disseminated.

United Nations world summits and civil society engagement

58. The increasing engagement of activist civil society with mainstream development institutions has been apparent in relation to the United Nations summits, which have provided civil society organizations (CSOs) with new advocacy forums. Brazil, Chile, China, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa, where important United Nations conferences or preparatory meetings were held, were the sites of research under this project, which focused on the impact of such events on civil society at the national level.

59. The research findings are highlighted below.

60. In all six countries, summit-related processes helped to raise awareness on important issues, such as environmental degradation, gender inequality and racism. These events gave many actors, including civil society organizations, an increased voice. Public perceptions concerning summit topics evolved, and awareness was raised concerning the need to re-examine policy orientations.

61. There had been an opening for civil society engagement with political processes shortly before, during and immediately after the summits. National legal frameworks improved; official consultations with civil society increased; and overall, Governments seemed to recognize the value and role of civil society in addressing the issues raised by the summits.

62. Summit-related processes stimulated linkages among civil society groups. Local organizations built ties with national networks; likewise, national organizations forged links with regional and international advocacy campaigns. Some organizations even attained prominence at the international level.

63. Political engagement of civil society organizations during the post-summit period proved complex. Governments sought to cope with contending demands and priorities, often engaging with civil society organizations primarily as service providers in the context of official policies and programmes.

64. The overall role of civil society organizations in stimulating citizen engagement in public policy formulation, implementation and monitoring during the post-summit period remained rather weak. A lack of adequate financial means also constrained the quality and sustainability of civil society activism during the post-summit period.

65. The Ford Foundation sponsored a meeting in March 2007 in New York to disseminate the principal research findings of this research to representatives from United Nations organizations, civil society organizations, foundations and academia. One *Programme Paper* was published.[7]

Global civil society movements: dynamics in international campaigns and national implementation

66. This project, which concluded in 2007, explored the structure, institutional values and modus operandi of selected global civil society movements — on the themes of debt relief, international trade rules and barriers, global taxation, anti-corruption, and fair-trade. The project also examined how these transnational citizen movements fare in national and local contexts. In-depth country studies were undertaken in Argentina, Bolivia, the Philippines, Senegal and Turkey.

67. The research findings are highlighted below.

68. At the national level, the following positive impacts were highlighted: increased influence of movements on the public and the media; growing numbers of alliances with national elites; and more frequent scaling up of the campaigns initiated by local and national movements.

69. Problems remained, however: country-level impacts were selective and partial (while the movements related to debt and free-trade questions were highly visible in all five countries, the Tobin tax, fair trade and anti-corruption movements had limited impacts). Furthermore, transnational movements tended to have contacts with some national elites, but had yet to link up with wider social dynamics at the country level.

70. As regards whether policy measures undertaken by national and international bodies reflected calls emanating from civil society campaigns, the research found that there existed considerable scope for collaboration with social movements (for example, common platforms of operation existing in the areas of debt relief, corruption control and fair trade). The demands and proposals advanced by social movements were increasingly precise and measured, and, in some cases, social movements provided expertise for public institutions.

71. However, the research also brought out many tensions. The lack of clear institutional mechanisms sometimes prevented social movements from entering into policy dialogues with public authorities. At times, movements remained wary of possible political use by authorities and consequently missed out on occasions for working together to bring about desirable policy changes. Finally, Governments, donor agencies and the United Nations sometimes exhibited scepticism regarding movements' accountability and legitimacy, as well as their capacity to participate in policy change.

72. Stakeholder meetings were held in all countries to disseminate the research results at the national level, and a workshop was organized at the World Social Forum (Nairobi) in January 2007.[8] Two books and three *Programme Papers* were also published during the reporting period.[9]

D. Identities, conflict and cohesion

73. Identities affect patterns of exclusion and solidarity, and provide a basis for both social cohesion and conflict. This programme has aimed to assess how processes of development and social change, as well as public policies, shape identities. The programme has stressed the complexity of ethnic and national identities, and how such identifications evolve over time and are reconfigured by political and economic changes.

74. One project was carried out in 2007-2008.

Identity, power and the rights of indigenous peoples

75. This project examined how linkages between States, international financial institutions and transnational corporations can impact on the identity, rights and livelihood of indigenous communities. The research studied conflicts between these actors in the context of specific petroleum, natural gas and mineral extraction projects in Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chad, Cameroon, India, Nigeria, Peru and the Philippines. It revealed and sought to explain a paradox: despite the growing number of international charters, State constitutions and national laws across the world that assert and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, there remain cases where the rights of these peoples are violated and many of these communities remain marginalized.

76. Throughout the project, the Institute exchanged information with the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

77. Dissemination meetings were organized in Bolivia, Geneva, the Philippines, Peru, New Zealand and Nigeria. Through the convening of these events, the Institute engaged researchers, representatives of indigenous peoples groups, policy actors and other stakeholders in debate and discussion with the aim of identifying more equitable forms of decision-making. Two *Programme Papers* were published by the Institute.[10]

E. Gender and development

78. In recent decades, women's presence in public life has grown, whether in politics, in the workforce, or in the migrant streams that cross international borders. Yet, gender inequalities in terms of power remain a persistent feature of the modern world and its institutions — in markets, macroeconomic flows and social policy programmes; States, political parties and social movements; and the intimate sphere of the family, the household and the community. Market-driven development strategies that ignore the unpaid economy of care or social reproduction, and political resistance to women's human rights (sometimes in the name of "culture" or "tradition"), have serious implications for the promotion of social equity and, in particular, for redressing inequalities between women and men.

79. Two projects were under way in 2007-2008.

Political and social economy of care

80. Human beings receive care from a range of institutions (households and families; States; markets; and the not-for-profit sector). Such care is an important dimension of economic and social development; how and where its provision is organized have direct implications for human welfare and gender equality. This project, for which most of the country-level research was carried out in 2007-2008 — in Argentina, India, Japan, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania — explores gender inequalities and power dynamics within these different institutions, and the implications of different care arrangements for those who provide care (on a paid or unpaid basis) in terms of poverty and access to social rights.

81. Policy responses to care responsibilities must focus on the reduction and elimination of economic and social disadvantages that women and girls face due to their disproportionate involvement in unpaid care activities. While responsibility for unpaid care has its rewards (both for the person who performs these tasks and for society more broadly), it also has numerous costs: weaker labour-market attachment; weaker claims to social security; and less time for education/training, leisure and self-care, and political activities.

82. Policy responses should and can enhance the capabilities and choices of caregivers and of those who depend on the care that they provide. While parental leave is important in countries with formalized labour markets, its relevance is questionable in many developing countries where labour relations are largely informal and labour regulations are weakly enforced even in formal work situations. The provision of care services, especially for young children but also for the frail elderly and those with disabilities, is an especially effective tool for poor women who often do not have the option of not working. The provision of primary education and health services has a direct impact on the unpaid care work assumed by households: in many low-income countries, improved basic social services would provide relief with respect to some of the most time-consuming tasks associated with unpaid care work, as would public investment in appropriate infrastructure (piped water, electrification, sanitation).

83. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development Research Centre held a joint panel on the occasion of the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2008) at which early research findings were presented. At the invitation of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Institute's research team participated in the Expert Group Meeting held in Geneva in October 2008, providing feedback on the draft Expert Group Meeting aide-memoire, presenting a paper, and highlighting some of the key policy implications emerging from the research. The project results will thereby feed into the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2009).

Religion-based politics and gender equality

84. This project, which began in late 2007, investigates how religion is inserted into politics in different settings through a comparative analysis of countries at different levels of development and with different religious denominations. It is particularly concerned with the effects on gender equality (defined broadly to embrace equality in access to resources and decision-making, bodily integrity and

freedom from violence) of the interface between religion and politics, and examines how women, individually and collectively, both engage in the contemporary reproduction, reinterpretation and transformation of religious traditions, and challenge the use of religion by different actors to advance their own interests. Cross-country comparative research is being carried out in Chile, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Serbia, Turkey and the United States of America.

III. Outreach: advisory work, publications and dissemination

85. The outreach strategy prepared in 2006 (Directions for UNRISD Outreach through 2009), approved by the Board of the Institute in April 2007, guided the Institute's activities in this area in 2007-2008. Through its outreach activities, the Institute seeks to communicate the results of its research to policymakers at international, regional, national and local levels; the academic community; civil society and the non-governmental sector; and the general and specialized media. The Institute's outreach strategy makes use of a range of outputs relevant for, and accessible to, an ever-expanding audience. In-house publications, co-publications with internationally renowned publishers, and the Institute website are the main outputs.

86. Institute staff members also act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities. This provides the Institute with opportunities to make substantive contributions to other institutions and groups based on the Institute's own expertise and research findings. In 2007-2008, Institute staff members carried out advisory activities on nearly 200 occasions, including activities that were requested by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (Division for the Advancement of Women; MDG Gap Task Force), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

87. The Institute issued 55 publications in 2007-2008: 15 books,[11] 22 *Programme Papers*,[12] 1 report (in Chinese),[13] 8 *Research and Policy Briefs*,[14] 6 issues of *Conference News*,[15] and 3 issues of *UNRISD News*.[16] UNRISD also issued two CD-ROMs[17] containing catalogue information for publications issued from the mid-1980s through 2007, as well as full text (PDF) of all in-house publications. These are being distributed free of charge in order to further expand availability and accessibility of the Institute's publications.

88. In 2007-2008, the Institute disseminated over 46,000 copies of its publications and CD-ROMs free of charge, via 120 events. Approximately half of the events were held in developing countries, and approximately half were held by or with other United Nations organizations.

89. Website statistics showed a continued positive trend in the number of unique visitors to the Institute site (www.unrisd.org), with an average of 31,246 per month in 2007 and 33,877 per month in 2008. The number of downloads of PDF versions

of the Institute's publications directly from the site also continued to increase (318,264 in 2007; 280,469 between January and October 2008). The number of subscribers to e-mail alerts grew from 10,325 in 2007 to 18,226 in October 2008. Geographically, of the top 20 main visiting countries to the Institute website, 8 were users from the South.

90. In 2007-2008, the Institute tracked nearly 80 references to its work in the official documents and publications of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Institute research provided the basis for a report and policy note entitled "New consensus on comprehensive social and employment policies for development", which served as inputs for discussion during the forty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development (February 2007). The report contains over 40 substantive references to Institute research and outputs. The Institute also tracked nearly 100 cases of use of its publications as educational materials (in course packs and Internet-based educational supports) at over 30 universities in 15 countries.

91. Permission requests were received and granted for translation (into Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian) and reproduction of Institute publications (in other publications, on online library repositories and knowledge-based websites, and in the policy arena). For example, time-use data from the project Political and social economy of care were used by a Member State in the preparation of a White Paper submitted to Parliament on the subject of women's rights and gender equality in international cooperation. The iKNOW Politics website posted seven Institute publications on gender, which it identified as valuable resources for women leaders around the world. Participants in the UNESCO Roundtable of Ministers of Social Development (July 2007) commended Institute expertise and experience in social development policy.

IV. Financial situation

92. The level of core funding received by the Institute for 2007 was US$ 3,301,987 and has been estimated at US$ 3,509,523 for 2008. A comparison of the core funding for 2007 with that for 2006 reflects an increase of US$ 495,524 and it is expected that there will be a further increase of US$ 207,536 in 2008 as compared with 2007. The core income represents voluntary contributions made by seven Governments in 2007 and 2008. The Institute also received project funding from Governments, international agencies and foundations. The level of such funding decreased from US$ 1,290,588 in 2006 to US$ 859,479 in 2007, while the funding pledged and due to be received in 2008 was US$ 865,448. The main contributors to core funds were Sweden and the United Kingdom, which had made three-year pledges. Annual contributions to core funds were received from Denmark, Finland, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland. Finland had made no contribution in 2007 but returned in 2008 as a core donor. Although Norway had made a contribution in 2007, it informed the Institute that it would not do so in 2008. During the reporting period, Finland and Switzerland also provided project funding, while other major project-specific contributions were received from the European Community, the International Development Research Centre (Canada), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Germany), the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Institute for Futures Studies (Sweden), the Christensen Fund (United States), UNDP and the World Wildlife Fund (United Kingdom).

93. Consolidated figures presented in the table below indicate that total Institute funding for 2008 has been estimated at US$ 4,374,971, which represents an increase of 5 per cent in respect of 2007 and 7 per cent in respect of 2006.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development funding 2006-2008

(United States dollars)

	2006	*2007*	*2008*[a]
Core	2 806 463	3 301 987	3 509 523
Project	1 290 588	859 479	865 448
Total	**4 097 051**	**4 161 466**	**4 374 971**

[a] Estimate.

Notes

[1] *Programme Paper* No. 37, on social policy and development.

[2] Two papers were published: *Programme Papers* Nos. 36 and 38, on social policy and development.

[3] One paper was published: *Programme Paper* No. 34, on social policy and development.

[4] *Conference News* 21.

[5] *Conference News* 22.

[6] *Programme Paper* No. 3, on markets, business and regulation; and one book: Naren Prasad, ed. (see below).

[7] *Programme Paper* No. 29, on civil society and social movements.

[8] *Conference News* 20.

[9] Two books: by Fernando Mayorga and Eduardo Córdova (see below); and by Alejandro Grimson and Sebastián Pereyra (see below); and *Programme Papers* Nos. 27, 28 and 30, on civil society and social movements.

[10] *Programme Papers* Nos. 12 and 13, on identities, conflict and cohesion.

[11] **Books**

Shahra Razavi, ed., *The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded" Liberalism?* Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development. 2009 (issued in 2008).

Anne Marie Goetz, ed., *Governing Women: Women's Political Effectiveness in Contexts of Democratization and Governance Reform*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development. 2009 (issued in 2008).

Fernando Mayorga and Eduardo Córdova, *El movimiento antiglobalización en Bolivia: Procesos globales e iniciativas locales en tiempo de crisis y cambio*. UNRISD/Plural Editores/Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios/Universidad Mayor de San Simon (CESU-UMSS). 2008.

Alejandro Grimson and Sebastián Pereyra, *Conflictos globales, voces locales: Movilización y activismo en clave transnacional*. UNRISD/Prometeo Libros. 2008.

Günseli Berik, Yana van der Meulen Rodgers and Ann Zammit, eds., *Social Justice and Gender Equality: Rethinking Development Strategies and Macroeconomic Policies*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development. 2008.

Naren Prasad, ed., *Social Policies and Private Sector Participation in Water Supply: Beyond*

Regulation. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2008.

Meredith Jung-En Woo, ed., *Neoliberalism and Institutional Reform in East Asia: A Comparative Study*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.

Nicola Piper, ed., *New Perspectives on Gender and Migration: Livelihood, Rights and Entitlements*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development. 2007.

Donna Pankhurst, ed., *Gendered Peace: Women's Struggles for Post-War Justice and Reconciliation*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development. 2007.

Yusuf Bangura, ed., *Democracy and Social Policy*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.

David Fig, ed., *Staking Their Claims: Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility in South Africa*. Scottsville, South Africa: UKZN Press. 2007.

'Jimí Adésínà, ed., *Social Policy in Sub-Saharan African Context: In Search of Inclusive Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.

Ralph R. Premdas, ed., *Trinidad and Tobago: Ethnic Conflict, Inequality, and Public Sector Governance*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.

Manuel Riesco, ed., *Latin America: A New Developmental Welfare State Model in the Making?* UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.

Rene Loewenson, ed., *AIDS Care: Psychological and Socio-Medical Aspects of AIDS/HIV. Special Issue: Community Responses to HIV and AIDS*, vol. 19, Supplement 1. London: Routledge. 2007.

[12] **Programme Papers** on civil society and social movements

PP-CSSM-31: Jem Bendell and Annekathrin Ellersiek, "Noble Networks? The Network Effect in Non-Governmental Advocacy on Global Inequality". December 2008.

PP-CSSM-30: Manuel Mejido Costoya, "Toward a Typology of Civil Society Actors: The Case of the Movement to Change International Trade Rules and Barriers". October 2007.

PP-CSSM-29: Britta Sadoun, "Political Space for Non-Governmental Organizations in United Nations World Summit Processes". February 2007.

PP-CSSM-28: Yovana Reyes Tagle and Katarina Sehm Patomäki, "The Rise and Development of the Global Debt Movement: A North-South Dialogue". January 2007.

PP-CSSM-27: Heikki Patomäki, "Global Tax Initiatives: The Movement for the Currency Transaction Tax". January 2007.

Programme Papers on gender and development

PP-GD-4: Debbie Budlender, "The Statistical Evidence on Care and Non-Care Work across Six Countries". December 2008.

PP-GD-3: Shahra Razavi, "The Political and Social Economy of Care in a Development Context: Conceptual Issues, Research Questions and Policy Options". June 2007.

PP-GD-2: Debbie Budlender, "A Critical Review of Selected Time Use Surveys". June 2007.

PP-GD-1: Maxine Molyneux, "Change and Continuity in Social Protection in Latin America: Mothers at the Service of the State?" May 2007.

Programme Papers on identities, conflict and cohesion

PP-ICC-13: Suzana Sawyer and Edmund Terence Gomez, "Transnational Governmentality and Resource Extraction: Indigenous Peoples, Multinational Corporations, Multilateral Institutions and the State". September 2008.

PP-ICC-12: Thomas Perreault, "Natural Gas, Indigenous Mobilization and the Bolivian State". July 2008.

Programme Papers on markets, business and regulation

PP-MBR-4: Peter Lund-Thomsen, "Assessing the Impact of Public-Private Partnerships in the Global South: The Case of the Kasur Tanneries Pollution Control Project". October 2007.

PP-MBR-3: Naren Prasad, "Social Policies and Water Sector Reform". September 2007.

PP-MBR-2: Uwafiokun Idemudia, "Corporate Partnerships and Community Development in the Nigerian Oil Industry: Strengths and Limitations". March 2007.

Programme Papers on social policy and development

PP-SPD-38: Fred Hendricks, "The Private Affairs of Public Pensions in South Africa: Debt, Development and Corporatization". December 2008.

PP-SPD-37: Peadar Kirby, "Explaining Ireland's Development: Economic Growth with Weakening Welfare". September 2008.

PP-SPD-36: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, "Social Insurance (Pensions and Health), Labour Markets and Coverage in Latin America". August 2008.

PP-SPD-35: Alexander Peyre Dutrey, "Successful Targeting? Reporting Efficiency and Costs in Targeted Poverty Alleviation Programmes". November 2007.

PP-SPD-34: Hein de Haas, "Remittances, Migration and Social Development: A Conceptual Review of the Literature". October 2007.

PP-SPD-33: 'Jimí O. Adésinà, "Social Policy and the Quest for Inclusive Development: Research Findings from Sub-Saharan Africa". May 2007.

PP-SPD-32: José A. Delfino, Ariel A. Casarin and María Eugenia Delfino, "How Far Does It Go? The Buenos Aires Water Concession a Decade after the Reform". May 2007.

PP-SPD-31: Ken Battle and Edward Tamagno, "Public Pensions in a Development Context: The Case of Canada". February 2007.

[13] **Report**

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World (Chinese). Beijing. 2007.

[14] **Research and Policy Briefs**

RPB 7s: "Comercialización y mundialización de la atención de la salud: Lecciones de la investigación de UNRISD". April 2008.

RPB 7f: "Marchandisation et mondialisation des soins de santé: Les leçons des recherches de l'UNRISD". April 2008.

RPB 7e: "Commercialization and Globalization of Health Care: Lessons from UNRISD Research". December 2007.

RPB 6s: "Las cumbres mundiales de las Naciones Unidas y la participación de la sociedad civil". April 2007.

RPB 6f: "Les sommets mondiaux de l'ONU et l'engagement de la société civile". April 2007.

RPB 6e: "UN World Summits and Civil Society Engagement". January 2007.

RPB 5s: "Política social transformativa: Lecciones de la investigación de UNRISD". March 2007.

RPB 5f: "Le pouvoir transformateur de la politique sociale: Leçons des recherches de l'UNRISD". March 2007.

[15] **Conference News**

CN 22: "Business, Social Policy and Corporate Political Influence in Developing Countries" (report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development Conference, 12 and

13 November 2007, Geneva). 2008.

CN 21: "Social Policy and Migration" (report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development/International Organization for Migration/Institute for Futures Studies International Workshop, 22 and 23 November 2007, Stockholm). 2008.

CN 20: "Global Civil Society Movements: Dynamics in International Campaigns and National Implementation" (report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development International Colloquium at the World Social Forum, 22 and 23 January 2007, Nairobi). 2008.

CN 19: "Equitable Access to Health Care and Infectious Disease Control: Concepts, Measurement and Interventions" (report of an International Symposium, 13-15 February 2006, Rio de Janeiro). 2007.

CN 18: "Financing Social Policy" (report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development International Workshop, 1 and 2 March 2007, Geneva). 2007.

CN 17: "Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes" (report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development Methodology Workshop, 21-23 February 2007, Geneva). 2007.

[16] *UNRISD News*, No. 28, March 2008; *UNRISD Infos*, No 28, mars 2008; *UNRISD Informa*, Núm. 28, marzo 2008.

[17] UNRISD Library/Bibliothèque/Biblioteca on CD-ROM, 1980s-2005 (2007); UNRISD Library/Bibliothèque/Biblioteca on CD-ROM, 2006-2007 (2008).